

seeks to develop a dynamic combination of educational opportunities and art that will honor, celebrate and perpetuate the legacy of one of the world's most courageous citizens, Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, it was exactly 60 years ago that Raoul Wallenberg, a son of a distinguished Swedish family, risked his life during World War II, when he left behind the comfort, the safety and the security of neutral Sweden to travel to Nazi-occupied and war-torn Hungary to save innocent lives. Through his extraordinary bravery, ingenuity and compassion he saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust.

I believe that the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg's courageous actions during World War II that saved thousands of potential Holocaust victims in Budapest is worthy of celebration, preservation and a continued public dialogue. As an international hero, every child needs to know the story of Raoul Wallenberg, and how his choices can play an important role in their own lives.

The Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial intends to provide educational opportunities that celebrate the life, contribution, and spirit of Raoul Wallenberg, as well as other historic and current figures that embody Raoul Wallenberg's extraordinary courage.

The goal of the American Swedish Institute and the Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial is that every student will complete their Minnesota high school experience knowing the name and legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, and the impact one person's humanity can have. The American Swedish Institute will be the home of and catalyst for a nationally recognized educational program that inspires young American students to live by the vision and inspiration embodied in the life and example of Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, Raoul Wallenberg will always stand as a reminder of the difference one person with courage can make and a great role model for the next generation who recognized that true satisfaction comes only from serving others, in this case in sacrificing his own life so others may live.

I am confident that the Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial will inspire young students by his story to become better, more unselfish, more caring human beings that are willing to transcend the barriers of race, religion, or nationality in their concern for others. It is therefore important to support projects like this so that the memory, legend and life of Raoul Wallenberg will not be forgotten. The vision he had for what one person can do in the face of injustice must be integrated in the moral fabric of every community, state, and nation.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, only a few-months ago the world honored the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide and promised never to tolerate genocide again. 10 years later we are witnessing another genocide, but this time in the Sudan. Since the

conflict erupted in February 2003, thirty thousand have died and close to a quarter of a million will die, if we do not act.

Sudanese government troops and their allied militia, the Janjaweed, have raped, tortured, maimed, and burned entire villages to cleanse the area of African Muslims. An estimated 1.2 million have been forced from their homes and into camps, where they remain vulnerable to attacks and lack basic services.

We must stop what is happening. It is Genocide, and under the requirements of the 1948 UN Convention, the world is obligated to act to stop it.

We must insist that the Sudanese government cease support for and disarm the Janjaweed militias and if it cannot, the UN Security Council must be persuaded to authorize force to do so.

The U.S. and world must target sanctions such as travel bans and the freezing of assets of Khartoum government officials responsible to stop the atrocities. We must find out why humanitarian aid is not getting through and ensure that it does.

Lastly, we must establish a Darfur Resettlement, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Fund so that those driven off their land may return and begin to rebuild their communities.

We must act now, if we are to prevent another Rwanda.

THE PATH TO GLORY: CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR, NAVY CROSS AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AFRICAN AMERICAN RECIPIENTS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the setting for the 15th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus's Veterans Braintrust took place amid repeated inferences that the Congressional Black Caucus CBC and other Democrats were unpatriotic. Despite the CBC's determination to express its patriotism we support the troops while continuing to raise the volume of criticism about the current engagement in Iraq, and/or the War on Terrorism.

With this as the larger socio-political backdrop the Veterans Braintrust decided to invite some of our most heroic African Americans, their family members and advocates such as Sgt. Andrew Bowman, Asa Gordon, Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher, Maj. Robert Greene, USA, Ret., John Howe, Steve Harris, Alonzo Swann, Jr., Allene Carter, CDR. Ross Fowler, USCG, Ret., Lee & Cornelius Charlton, Mark Pitts, Baba Henderson, Dr. Frank Smith, Jr., Betty Stokes, Mary Jones, and Isaac Prentice to Washington, DC as a special testimonial to our collective patriotism, sacrifice and valor on behalf of this great nation during her many times of trouble and conflict.

Thus, consciously choosing to illuminate some historical facts and advocate in effect that countless African Americans have served in America's wars, been shot, wounded and disabled, yet continue to be neglected, or denied quality health care and access to other benefits and services, including basic equal rights.

Equally important, the 15th Anniversary Veterans Braintrust National Issues Forum "The Path to Glory: The Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, and Distinguished Service Cross Recipients" also known as the pyramid of honor; and subtitled: "Revisiting the Battles of Sgt. Henry Johnson and Dorie Miller for the Congressional Medal Honor," was indeed a historic milestone. For the first time in our nations history the families of African American recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, along with awardees of the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) were gathered in one room. Additionally, the issues forum was exceptionally well attended with representatives coming from as far away as Albany, New York, Detroit, Michigan, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Los Angeles, California.

While the CBC represents 26 million African Americans, including more than 2 million African American veterans, we all recognize our country faces many challenges both within and without that is why Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. D-GA and I felt a moral obligation, not a duty at this time to look back and reexamine issues from the past, closely related to the awarding of the military's highest awards for heroism and valor—The Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross and Distinguished Service Cross.

Here again, the Veterans Braintrust which is widely recognized as the premiere forum for debate between veterans of African descent and government officials sought to examine some of the historically vexing issues, individual war narratives, and family testimonies associated with more than a century and a half of the awarding of the military's highest awards for bravery and valor.

To help provide a framework for this historical and contemporary analysis war/veteran narratives included the Civil War, Indian Campaigns of the 19th Century, and World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam Conflicts of the 20th Century in the wake of growing criticism of US Foreign Policy, raising concerns about the fate of affirmative action, and the ever increasing African American health disparities.

Executive Director Ron Armstead laid the groundwork by researching William Raspberry's 'Two Heroes, No Medals of Honor' column examining two black war heroes quest for posthumous Congressional Medals of Honor: Sgt. Henry Johnson, a World War I Infantryman from Albany, and Seaman Dorius 'Dorie' Miller, a World War II hero from Waco, Texas. The column cited, although the military services, while not discounting their heroism, have steadfastly refused to go along with any attempts to grant Johnson and Miller the Medal of Honor. While countering, that although no black soldier was awarded the medal of honor during WWI, approximately 50 black soldiers were awarded the DSC, the Army's second highest award for valor in combat, for their extraordinary heroism in WWI. As a result, the number of black servicemen to receive CMH's for their heroism in the two world wars of the twentieth century remained zero until the 1990's.

Further, our war/veteran narratives revealed the Navy's reluctance to embrace black war heroes in 1944 met its timely demise 48 years later when Alonzo Swann, Jr., then 67, of Gary, Indiana stepped aboard his old ship the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier and accepted the Navy's highest award for bravery—the